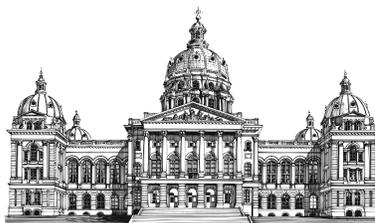


# Iowa Legislative Fiscal Bureau



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## DALS Emergency Hay Hotline

### ISSUE

Continuing dry weather in parts of Iowa may bring about need for assistance to Iowa's farmers.

### AFFECTED AGENCIES

Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALS)

### BACKGROUND

The emergency hay hotline was first implemented during the summer of 1988 to match sellers of hay with farmers needing to buy hay. In that summer, 1,600 calls were received, with approximately 60.0% from sellers and 40.0% from buyers. The cost for the hotline (spread out over FY 1988 and FY 1989) was \$2,000.

In the summer of 1989, the hotline was used for information on aflatoxin (a toxic fungus), and the cost was considerably less.

Since the hotline was reactivated on June 18, 1992, 434 calls have been received through July 2, with approximately 75.0% from sellers and 25.0% from buyers.

The Emergency Hay Hotline number is **1-800-383-5079**.

### CURRENT SITUATION

This situation raises the following question/issue:

If the dry conditions persist, programs such as the Rural Concern Hotline, the Farmer's Mediation Program and the Farmer's Legal Assistance Program might have an increase in demand for services exceeding their resources.

### BUDGET IMPACT

It is estimated that the cost of the hay hotline will be similar to that experienced during the summer of 1988 (\$2,000). The DALS has stated that no other program will be eliminated because of this service.

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